



8,000 eggs per pound of body weight. Eggs hatch in three to five days.

Habitats

Mississippi River; interior rivers and streams; natural lakes and prairie marshes; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

northeastern two-thirds of Iowa

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.

smallmouth bass

Micropterus dolomieu

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates
Class: Osteichthyes
Family: Perciformes
Order: Centrarchidae

Features

The smallmouth bass is a slender streamlined fish with a moderately large mouth, where the upper jaw reaches about to the rear margin of the eye in adults. There is only a shallow notch between the spiny and soft parts of the dorsal fin. It is golden green on the sides and back with faint, wavy, olive green blotches evenly spaced along the sides and olive green bars radiating from the eye. It commonly grows to three or four pounds. The state record weighed 7 3/4 pounds and was 22 3/4 inches long.

Natural History

The smallmouth bass lives primarily in swift flowing, less turbid (dirty) waters in rivers and smaller streams and is stocked in constructed lakes. It eats larger insects, crayfish, and small fish. It usually spawns in early May. The male fans a saucer-shaped nest in the gravel, coarse sand, or rock bottom by sweeping its tail over the substrate. The female deposits 7,000 to